

Independent Voices on Congress's Stimulus Plan: "Falls Short," "A Lot That's Not Stimulus," "Dubious Job-Building Credentials"

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle editorial board says stimulus plan "falls short" with "dubious job-building credentials in the short-term."

- **Rochester Democrat & Chronicle:** "The \$825 billion economic stimulus bill the House is considering is far too laden with pet projects and questionable spending to be adopted. ... Right now, the bill is a blunt instrument forged in the dark and wielded on behalf of too many special interests. Obviously, the economy needs a charge. But the wrong kind of charge ... could have a negative impact. ... Too much of what's been submitted has dubious job-building credentials in the short-term and plays to political agendas and favored constituents." (Editorial, 1/28/09)

Buffalo News editorial board says Congress should resist "larding" the stimulus with "pork."

- **Buffalo News:** "Congress must make sure stimulus bill delivers lasting value, not just spending ... This latest effort must not be a magnet for pork projects that simply please certain interests; it must meet the tests of bolstering the economy while, in this case, providing infrastructure that will prove useful to the generations of taxpayers who will have to pay this bill." (Editorial, 1/18/09)

USA Today editorial board calls parts of Congress's stimulus plan "pretty ugly," says new spending "looks too much like business as usual."

- **USA Today:** "It's not clear how spending another \$2 billion to research Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other diseases would stimulate the economy. Similarly, how does adding \$2.1 billion to let 110,000 more kids participate in Head Start jump-start economic activity? Or devoting \$150 million to aviation safety research or \$50 million to the National Endowment for the Arts? These might be excellent ideas, but they should go through the normal appropriations process and be weighed against other priorities rather than be tacked onto the stimulus package." (Editorial, 1/26/09)

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, Congress's official scorekeeper, says Congress's stimulus plan will not provide the economy with enough of a jolt to create jobs in the short-term.

- **Washington Post's Robert Samuelson:** "Construction spending – for schools, clinics, roads – may start so slowly that there will be little immediate economic boost. The Congressional Budget Office examined \$356 billion in spending proposals and concluded that only 7 percent would be spent in 2009 and 31 percent in 2010." (1/26/09)

David Walker, the nation's former top accountant, considered by both Republicans and Democrats to be a leading voice for fiscal responsibility, says the bill is "not all stimulus."

- **David Walker, former head of the Government Accountability Office (GAO):** "This bill is not all stimulus. ... We ought to have open and honest discussion and debate about the merits of each" spending provision." (The Washington Times, 1/27/09)

Alice Rivlin, President Bill Clinton's budget director, says the stimulus plan should be overhauled because a "long-term investment program should not be put together hastily" and will not "create many jobs right away."

- **Former Clinton White House budget director Alice M. Rivlin:** "Such a long-term investment program should not be put together hastily and lumped in with the anti-recession package. The elements of the investment program must be carefully planned and will not create many jobs right away. [The risk is that] money will be wasted because the investment elements were not carefully crafted." (The Washington Post, 1/28/09)

Washington Post editorial board says Congress's stimulus plan has "a lot that's not stimulus."

- **Washington Post:** "We are sympathetic to the objective, and there might be much to recommend each of the various proposals. But given their cost, and the inherent difficulty of forecasting their impact, Congress should vet them through the normal legislative process, weigh them against other priorities and pay for them." (Editorial, 1/25/09)

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